The New-York Times.

VOL. IX.—NO. 2577. NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1859. PRICE TWO CENTS.

CONGRESS.

THREE STRAIGHT CUTS TO WORK.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND COMMITTED.

Discussion Between Southern Democrats and Southern Abolitionists.

Compromise Proposal of Mr. Keitt.

TWO MORE BALLOTS FOR SPEAKER.

[Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.]

THE POSTPONEMENT OF TUESDAY.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 22.

The House seems disposed to go to work in earnest. A large number of bills were introduced to-day and referred, the most important of which was Mr. Grow's Pacific Railroad bill, which passed at once to the calendar without a reference, it being the same bill which was reported during the last Congress from a special committee. It provides that the President shall construct for the transportation of troops, forces, military stores, &c., by railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Pendleton's bill amending the act creating the court of Claims, proposes making the judgments of this Court final with an appeal to the Supreme Court. Mr. Davis gave notice of a bill organizing the Territory of Arizonia.

On motion of Mr. Sherman, the Senate passed a resolution adjourning from to-morrow until Tuesday next, then till Friday, and afterwards until Tuesday, Jan. 3. Mr. Clingman countered this as ingenious mode of dodging positive constitutional restrictions. Mr. Davis thought it advisable for the Senate to remain in session, as the House might organize, and the President desire to send in his Message. The resolution was declared passed, although the nays apparently had it.

Senator Hunter introduced a bill for an appropriation to arm and equip a regiment of Texas mounted volunteers, as authorized by the act of '56. This regiment is now greatly needed on that frontier.

The only vacancy in the House contest is the choice of committees. The Democrats, to-day, succeeded in placing the Southern Opposition in an unpleasant attitude before the country. Mr. Keitt, by authority, and in good faith, proposed that his Southern friends should select any man from the Democratic ranks, and all unite on him, or the Democrats would select one from the South Americans, and unite to elect him. The proposition, however, was declined. Its acceptance would probably have resulted in an election, as the remaining five Anti-Lecomptonites would have been forced to take sides, and thus end the contest. Hopes are entertained that by morning the Americans may name a Democrat for whom they are willing to vote. My own conviction is that they will not do so, and as that between a Democrat and Mr. Sherman, Mr. Davis of Maryland and Mr. Branch, will both vote for the latter.

Mr. Grow discouraged the discussion which had taken place, and called attention to the embarrassed condition of the Post-Office Department. The contractors could not receive the pay due them under the mail contracts, and the mails would probably cease on the first of January.

Mr. Washburne tried to get the floor to pin Mr. Grow through whose agency the Post-office Appropriation bill of the last Congress had failed. Mr. Grow himself had defeated it, and brought distress on the contractors, and now tells the country that the Republican Party would grow fat on organization, and provide that from the responsibility, if relief be not granted. Mr. Washburne failed to get the floor and a general squabble ensued during which the House adjourned. The two ballots taken indicate nothing.

Frank Y. Cutler, of New-York, is here, an applicant for the United States District-Attorneyship. Judge Alexander S. Jonnson will probably be the man appointed, though others have been named.

David L. Seymour, of Troy, is strongly recommended.

THE THREATENED CONGRESSIONAL DUEL.

The difficulty which has existed between Senator Jonnson and Hon. Mr. Hindman, of Arkansas, and which it was supposed would result in a duel, has been amicably arranged, as will appear by the following card:

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1859.

The undersigned, to whom a difficulty between Col. Jonnson and Col. Hindman has been submitted for arbitration, recommend that Col. Jonnson withdraw his card in the Pine Bluff *Independent* of Nov. 26, and that Col. Hindman disclaim any purpose to reflect upon Col. Jonnson's personal character, or to give him (Col. Jonnson) an insult, by any language he (Col. Hindman) may have employed in respect of himself, the Johnson faction, or family.

R. TOOMBS,
ROGER A. PRYOR.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 286.—1. Time of assembling Board of Officers to arrange programme of instruction of Artillery School at Fort Monroe, is postponed until further orders.

2. Leave of Absence granted Col. G. Loomis, Fifth Infantry is extended eight months.

3. Assistant-Surgeon J. Lawrence is assigned to duty in the Department of California, and he will report to head-quarters of that Department and report accordingly.

4. Leave of Absence for six months, with permission to go beyond the United States, is granted to Lieut. H. Dodge, Corps Topographical Engineers.

5. Leave of Absence granted to Lieut. Alexander Moore, Tenth Infantry, is extended to May, 1860.

Lieut. Benton M. Baker's Leave of Absence is extended two weeks.

Lieut.-Col. Geo. Andrews, Sixth Infantry, will proceed to San Francisco, and report to the Commanding-General of that Department for duty with his regiment.

Maj. Edmund Brooke, First Dragoons, is assigned to duty with his regiment, in the Department of Oregon, and will report in person to the Commanding-General of that Department, for orders.

In consequence of the unprepared state of the command as until the snow and extreme cold of that climate, the troops in the Navajo country, with the exception of four companies constituting the regular garrison of Fort Defiance, are temporarily withdrawn and will go into cantonment.

The Interior Department has issued orders to the Surveyor General of Utah to respect as reservations for the Pyramid Indians, Truckee River Valley and Pyramid Lake, also the Northeast part of the valley of Walker's River, including Walker's Lake. This last lake is fourteen miles in length; is said to be the greatest sheet of water on the continent, and literally filled with every variety of the choicest fish. The Indians for whom these rich valleys and this beautiful lake are reserved by the Government, are not only peace-loving, but more than ordinarily intelligent. Major Dodge, the able and popular agent for these Indians, is now here, and to his influence and representations are they indebted for this kind consideration on the part of the Government.

Wm. H. Gird, Quartermaster U. S. Army, is granted six weeks' leave of absence; and Lieutenant-Colonel Reuben Brooke, twenty days. Lieut. C. Whipple, Corps Engineers, receives leave of absence till Aug. 28, 1860, with permission to go beyond the limits of the United States.

A General Court-Martial is ordered to convene at Jefferson Barracks. The following officers will constitute the Court: Brevet-Major C. C. Washburn, Maj. N. C. Macrae, Capt. Reuben E. Clary, Capt. John C. McFerran, Lieut. Silas Crispin, Lieut. G. D. Wagner, and Brevet Lieut.-Col. Geo. D. Ruggles, Judge-Advocate.

A Board of Officers to consist of Maj. Reuben Anderson, First Artillery; Capt. Robert Vosburg, First Artillery; and Capt. Joseph Roberts, Fourth Artillery, will assemble at Fort Monroe without delay, to arrange a programme of instruction for the Artillery School at that post, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War. Q.

[FROM THE REPORTER FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 22.

Recently Messrs. Sweeny, Rittenhouse, Fant & Co. addressed a letter to the President, containing a formal appeal from the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury against them on two points: First—His refusal to permit them to deposit at San Francisco any portion of the Government loan taken by them under the proposals by the Secretary of the 19th of December, 1859; and second—His refusal to refer the question to the Attorney-General. It is understood that both are to take the position that the place of deposit was clearly made a material part of the contract, and that the bidder, if successful, was explicitly authorized under the proposals to select any Government depository nearest to his residence or individual as most convenient to him. Immediately after the award this firm offered to deposit the amount in the depository at San Francisco. The Secretary declined to receive it there, on the ground that he did not require funds at that place, and that his proposals did not authorize them to deposit at San Francisco. A balance of their loan, therefore remained unpaid. The correspondence shows that they have always been ready to pay at San Francisco. The President has answered their letter by informing them that an appeal does not lie to the President from the decisions of the heads of the different Executive Departments. Their acts and decisions are those of the President, for which he is held responsible, and that they are his in fact, in all cases of difficulty and importance. The truth, he says, is, that such an appellate jurisdiction would render it impossible for him to discharge his high duties to the country, and would resolve his office into a tribunal to hear and determine private claims in the last resort. He refers these bankers to the Court of Claims or to Congress. They have no action in the latter.

The President has recognized D. Sebastiano Dacosti as Vice-Consul for the Two Sicilies, at New-York, Antonio Paranzo y Seisino as Vice-Consul for Spain at New-Orleans, and C. Oliver O'Donnell as Vice-Consul for Portugal at Baltimore.

Mr. Gilmer's thirty-six votes on the first trial to-day were composed of those of his own political party, and of Messrs. Campbell, Covode, Hale, Haskin, Junkin, McKnight, Millward, Morris, (Penn.,) Nixon, Pennington, Schwartz, Scranton and Stratton. The above-named all returned to the support of Mr. Sherman on the last vote.

Messrs. Horace F. Clark, Davis of Indiana, and Reynolds voted for Mr. Adrain; and Messrs. Adrain, Montgomery, Morris of Illinois, and Riggs for Mr. Davis of Indiana.

There were five scattering Democratic votes.

Messrs. Maynard and Vance did not vote.

Mr. Gilmer, on the second trial, and Mr. Sickles, with four others, supported Mr. Davis of Indiana.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 22.

The Chair presented a communication from the officer in charge of the Capitol Extension respecting the heating and ventilating apparatus of the north wing.

Mr. Mallory, of Florida, (Dem.,) introduced a bill amendatory of the act to promote the progress of the useful arts.

Mr. Lane, of Oregon, (Dem.,) introduced a bill making an appropriation for the payment of the expenses incurred by the people of Oregon and Washington to suppress Indian hostilities therein; also, a bill to extend the laws and Judicial system of the United States to Oregon.

Mr. Gwin, of California, (Dem.,) introduced a Pacific Railroad bill, and gave notice that he should call it up at an early day.

Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, (Dem.,) introduced a bill making appropriation for the erection of piers in Delaware Bay.

Mr. Harlan, of Iowa, (Rep.,) introduced a bill to reimburse the State of Iowa for moneys expended in the suppression of Indian hostilities.

Mr. Clay, of Alabama, (Dem.,) introduced a bill to repeal all the laws granting fishing bounties.

Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, (Dem.,) gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill for the territorial organization of Arizona.

Mr. Slidell, of Louisiana, (Dem.,) introduced a resolution that, when the Senate adjourn to-morrow, it stand adjourned till Tuesday next; and when it adjourns on Tuesday, it be adjourned till Friday; and from Friday until the third day of January. He said this was at the request of others, who wished to go home to spend the Holidays.

Mr. Collamer, of Vermont, (Rep.,) thought it an ingenious evasion of the Constitution.

Mr. Iverson, of Georgia, (Dem.,) did not so understand it. The only object was to have a common understanding that no business should be done until after the Holidays.

Mr. Collamer felt it his duty to protest against it. He was willing to attend to public business.

Mr. Davis suggested that it was better not to adjourn, as the House had not yet organized, and the President's Message was not received. The House might organize any day.

Mr. Slidell read from the Senate Journal, showing that similar resolutions had been adopted before on the occasion of the Cincinnati Convention and the Philadelphia Convention.

The resolution was then agreed to.

Mr. Bright, of Indiana, (Dem.,) introduced a bill for enlarging the public grounds surrounding the Capitol.

Mr. Henderson, of Texas, (Dem.,) introduced bills making appropriations for the payment of certain Texas volunteers, and the Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 22.

Mr. Farnsworth, of Illinois, (Rep.,) was entitled to the floor, but yielded it, to enable Mr Curtis, of Iowa, (Rep.,) to move that the House proceed to a vote for Speaker.

Mr. Curtis said it appeared to him that this was the last day before the Holidays in which they could effect an organization. He would like to hear his friend Mr. Farnsworth, were it not that that gentleman should devote the whole day to an effort to organize the House. The whole country is looking for our organization this very day. Mr. Curtis said he was told in private conversation, this morning, that four millions of dollars were due to contractors, and that most of them were now here imploring members to make an appropriation for their pay.

As a preliminary to voting there was a call of the House, and as it was ascertained that about eighteen members were absent, it was thought not best to proceed to a vote at present.

Mr. Anderson, of Kentucky, (American,) wanted first an organization of the House, and then gentlemen might discuss the Slavery question to their hearts' content. He was opposed to its agitation. He favored the enforcement of all laws, and there wanted the question to rest. He would not have risen now had not his colleague (Burnett) yesterday asked him why he did not take a particular course. He had not voted for the Democratic nominee since he came to the House, and would not accept an issue made between a Republican and a Democrat. He hoped such an issue would never arrive. He did not desire a united South, or a united North. He belonged to a party in opposition to the Administration, and they were not for a united South or a united North. If we go for a united South what would be the result? We would be overwhelmed by the North, which the next census would show to have largely the preponderance. If you make it a question of dollars and cents, where would be Southern interests? He stood here as a Whig and always expected to advocate Whig principles.

In a reply to a question of Mr. Burnett, why he did not vote for Mr. Millson? he said because Mr. Millson had voted against the Kansas-Nebraska bill. The Democrats themselves had been inconsistent in voting for Mr. Millson, who voted against the Kansas-Nebraska bill, which in 1854 was made the test of Democracy. So far as he was personally concerned, when he was on the Fillmore electoral ticket, he did say he would vote for the repeal of the Missouri line. It was true that Mr. Bocock voted with Mr. Millson against that bill, but on every other question he agreed with Mr. Bocock. He was a slave-holder, but did not think he was the worse for that. He was in favor of a tariff for the protection of American labor, and he understood Mr. Millson to favor free trade. Mr. Bocock is for the union of these States.

Mr. Burnett said Mr. Anderson had a paper in his District called the Danville Tribune, in which appears a letter from his colleague attempting to fix the responsibility of an organization on the Democrats.

Mr. Anderson replied that he did say so and said so yet. (Laughter.) He repeated that the Democrats could not get votes enough to elect their nominee, even with the aid of the Southern Opposition. He and his friends were elected in opposition both to the Black Republicans and the Buchanan Administration. They could therefore have gained nothing by the election of a Democratic Speaker, who would so form the Committees as to stifle the investigations into corruptions which they were expected to expose. He spoke (amid laughter) of a man who made a fortune by attending to his own business, and of another who made a fortune by letting other people's business alone. He asked his colleague whether he would support Mr. Douglas if he was nominated by the Charleston Convention?

Mr. Burnett replied that he was not looking forward to such a contingency, but in a contest between a Black Republican and a national conservative man, he would set an example which his colleague would not be willing to follow. He would rally under any flag of any man against a Black Republican. If his colleague had been in the last Congress, would he have voted for the admission of Kansas under the English bill?

Mr. Anderson—I answer emphatically, No.

Mr. Burnett inquired whether his colleague's candidate for the Governorship of Kentucky (Hall) did not indorse the English bill?

Mr. Anderson replied that he did not. He then proceeded to explain Mr. Hall's position on that subject. The Democrats could elect a Southern man if they would, and that man was Mr. Guthrie. He did not believe that the mere election of a Republican President or Speaker was cause for going out of the Union. They should wait till he had committed an overt act and trespassed on the rights of the South. (Applause.) Then there would be time to consider the subject. Disunion ought not to enter any man's mind. He was for Union first, last and always. In the language of Webster, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable." (Applause.)

Mr. Burnett replied—He was a Union man, but for a constitutional Union; and a Union without a Constitution was not worth a cent. He desired a united South as a most efficient check to the Republicans. As to his not voting for Mr. Gilmer, that gentleman, it was known, could not unite his own party friends. With regard to the charges of corruption made by his colleague, there were investigations at the last session, but no corruption was found against the Administration. Gentlemen could again make investigations, but they would meet with similar signal defeat as heretofore. He repeated that he was satisfied that this House could not be organized by the Democrats.

Mr. Harris of Maryland, (American,) remarked, as it could not be shown that if all the Southern opposition had voted for Mr. Millson that gentleman could be placed in the Speaker's chair, it was idle and unfair to charge the responsibility of his non-election upon them.

Mr. Burnett replied—If these twenty-three Southern opposition votes had been given to Mr. Millson, it would have resulted in an organization—it would have placed him in a position to command a majority of votes, and made it necessary for the Anti-Lecompton Democrats to decide the contest. As to its being in the power of the Democrats last week to elect Mr. Gilmer, he believed if the Democrats had gone over to him, certain gentlemen who had voted for him would have immediately changed their course.

Mr. Campbell, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.,) replied that he, as a Pennsylvanian, voted, on the occasion referred to, for Mr. Gilmer. He voted for him on his record as a conservative man, standing on the resolutions of 1850, and would not have changed his vote under any circumstances.

Mr. Burnett—Do you speak for all who voted with you?

Mr. Campbell—I speak for myself alone.

Mr. Morris, of Pennsylvania, (Independent,)—When the Democrats unite on Mr. Gilmer I am willing to unite to place him in the Chair. [Applause.]

Mr. Harris, of Maryland, said: When some of the Northern vote was, the other day, cast for Mr. Gilmer, he had previously learned that it was done in good faith, and he intended, whatever be the result, to adhere to that position.

Mr. Nixon, of New-Jersey, (Rep.,) said he voted for Mr. Gilmer in good faith, and was ready to do so again.

Mr. Harris, of Maryland, was authorized to say Mr. Gilmer could get as many votes now as he had then.

Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, (Dem.,) said he had voted for Mr. Hoffman, and would do so again against a sectional candidate, but would not be guided by Black Republicans voting for Mr. Gilmer, led by Thaddeus Stevens.

Mr. Haskin, of New-York, (Anti-Lecompton Dem.,) remarked that he cast his vote for Mr. Gilmer, who was consistent in his opposition to the Lecompton policy of the Administration. As an Anti-Lecompton Democrat, if Mr. Gilmer was again presented as a candidate of the conservative portion of the House, he would vote for him. [Applause.]

Mr. Burnett said if there was no other reason why he should not vote for Mr. Gilmer, that gentleman was sustained by some of the most prominent leaders of the Republican Party.

Mr. Harris, of Maryland, remarked that Mr. Burnett could exercise his own judgment. He was willing to leave it to the people outside of this House to pronounce upon the reasons for not voting for Mr. Gilmer assigned by Mr. Garnett and Mr. Burnett. It being now an ascertained fact that with the Democratic vote Mr. Gilmer can be elected, he put that gentleman in nomination. [Applause.]

Mr. Millson, of Virginia, (Dem.,) said that without any agency of his own his name had been used in the canvass. He did not think under the circumstances he could be regarded in any proper sense as a candidate. It was not therefore either his duty or privilege to withdraw his name or even to offer any suggestion to the gentlemen who had given the vote so flattering to himself. While he expressed his warm and grateful acknowledgements for the honor, he trusted he might be allowed to express the hope that in the future votes for Speaker his friends would be influenced alone by a sense of public duty uninfluenced in any degree by any supposed obligation resulting from his nomination.

The House proceeded to vote for Speaker with the following result:

Whole number of votes	223
Necessary for a choice	113
Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, (Rep.,)	93
Mr. Millson, of Virginia, (Dem.,)	79
Mr. Gilmer, of North Carolina, (Am.,)	36
Mr. Davis, of Indiana, (Anti-Lecompton Dem.,)	4
Mr. Adrain, of N. J., (Anti-Lecompton Dem.,)	3
Scattering	8

Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, (Dem.,) proceeded to show how an organization could rapidly be effected by the Union of all opposed to the Republicans. He made the proposition in good faith, and was willing to tender the olive branch. Let the thirty, including the Southern Opposition on the Union side, select a candidate from the Democratic side; or let the Democrats select one from their side. Let all unite against the common enemy, and success is certain. [Applause.]

Impatient cries of "Call the roll; vote, &c."

Another ballot was taken with the following result:

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, (Rep.,)	106
Mr. Millson, of Virginia, (Dem.,)	60
Mr. Gilmer, of North Carolina, (Am.,)	21
Scattering	35
Whole number of votes cast	222
Necessary to a choice	112

Mr. Winslow, of North Carolina, (Dem.,) offered a resolution that on and after to-day no vote shall be taken for Speaker until the second Monday in January. He said it was evident the House could do nothing just now to effect an organization. They were approaching the holidays, which even the slaves of the South enjoyed. He thought it better to adjourn over, that gentlemen might go home and catch some of the patriotic feelings of their constituents.

Mr. Washburn, of Maine, (Rep.,) and others on the Republican side, objected to the reception of the resolution.

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.,) contended that only two motions were in order, either to proceed to a vote or to adjourn. The finalization of the Salary question had been thrust on the floors by those who cry out—"No agitation." The Republicans have sat here with closed lips while the grossest perversion of their conduct has been made by men who claim to be fair-minded. Now, when we owe five millions to those who have performed service under written contracts, and have been waiting six months for their pay, it was proposed that gentlemen go home, and leave the Government bankrupt. He asked whether Government's plighted faith should be preserved above all to contractors, who have rendered important services? They have been sitting here listening to speeches, in substance what has appeared in the New-York *Herald* for the last six weeks. That paper furnished the brains, while the discussion only looks the spice and sauciness of its style. All read these editorials with interest. Gentlemen here have been advertising Mr. Helper's book, which, they say, is destructive to the peace and tranquillity of the Union, and giving it a wider circulation which the Republican Committee had failed to do. If the book was incendiary, as was charged, and disturbed the peace of the country as much, those who have been discussing the Slavery question are responsible for it. The Republicans had not spread broadcast this book.

Mr. Davidson, of Louisiana, (Dem.,) and several others, reminded Mr. Grow that he had indorsed the circulation of Helper's compendium.

Mr. Grow replied, that the Republicans asked to be judged by their Platform and record, not by the perversions of the newspapers. When any man charged him with being an accomplice of murder, treason, and other crimes, he had no other answer than to treat it with the contempt it deserved. He was willing to proclaim his political sentiments at all times. This Union was not so strong as he supposed, if a pamphlet of twelve hundred pages can disturb its tranquillity. He and his friends asked that the business for which they came here should be transacted. He had heard it intimated that when the 1st of January comes, if the Government is not in credit to comply with its contracts, and pay these contractors five millions, they will abandon the service. The Republicans take no part in the discussions which delay the organization. They would consent to no adjournment for sports and the holidays, while these meritorious claimants are unprovided for.

Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, (Dem.,) and others, sought the floor, but the dispute was terminated by an adjournment.

Our Washington Correspondence.

THE HOUSE—MR. DAVIDSON ON HIS LEGS—THE EXPLANATION OF JUDGE PARKER—THE HARD-SHELL REPRESENTATIVE OF ALABAMA—THE OTHER FIGURANTS OF THE DAY.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1859.

On the opening of the House this morning, Thomas G. Davidson, of Louisiana, hastily described in yesterday's letter, took the floor and claimed credit for the little time he had consumed during the past four years adorning the House. Leaning on his crutch, which he holds with his left hand, and with his right hand warmly and securely lodged in his breeches pocket, the venerable and white-haired old gentleman gives us an easy and good-natured talk on matters and things in general—liberty of speech—misconceptions and wilful mistakes of the Republican Party, and the duty of the Democrats to adhere strictly to men of national and conservative principles. He grew a little warm in proclaiming that, "whenever any great interest of the Republic was to be conserved, as never had faltered—never had failed to come to the rescue with all his energies and all his strength!" This was a plucky and vivacious statement, showing that red blood still runs in the old man's veins; and as such it was hailed with applause by all sides of the House. A man of known moderation and plain sense, he enforced on the attention of his fellow-members, that it was no longer the Southern leaders striving to excite the masses of their constituencies for selfish purposes; on the contrary, for the first time in our history, we now see the Southern masses urging forward to extreme measures those leaders who heretofore were far ahead of them in the assertion of Southern rights. It was curious to see the trembling eagerness with which our ancient friend adjusted his silver spectacles, when about to make those unhappy quotations from Senator Seward's speech at Rochester. A political Rip Van Winkle, Mr. Davidson only seemed to have awoke this morning to the consciousness that things are not now as they were in the days when Thomas Jefferson was President. As the heat of the subject got into his old bones, the speaker's utterance became fast and very difficult to follow. His right hand was presently extracted from his pocket, and towards the close he waved it round his head—shook it against the Republicans, though never clinching it; and finally hopped round the aisle on his one sound foot and crutch with all the activity of a robin who has just discovered a more than commonly fat earth-worm in the clod last turned up by the farmer's spade.

While he is reading another long extract from Helper's book, it may be mentioned that Amasa J. Parker has declined the appointment of United States District-Attorney for New-York, and that Mr. Gilbert Dean arrived here this morning, as an applicant for the place. Mr. Dean called upon the President, bright and early, about three or four hours ago, being accompanied by Hon. John Cochrane, who indorsed his professional fitness; but the indications are pretty unmistakable that Mr. Buchanan, in this appointment, will not recognize any one who has placed himself outside of the regular Democratic organization. The appointment will be made next Friday, and if Gen. Ellzay Ward can convince the President that his services in Congress has not taken away from him former high standing at the New-York Bar, the General will be the most promising applicant—certainly the one whose appointment would be personally most agreeable to Mr. Buchanan.

This parenthesis and the quotations from Helper being concluded together, Mr. Davidson is heard resuming his remarks—denouncing the tadpole as the vilest of all living things, and the frog as only less vile than the tadpole. The application of this be comes clear, when he states that freesoilers are the tadpoles of politics and Abolitionists the fully developed frogs! To be sure this is not quite original, but it provokes a laugh; the laugh puts the House into better humor; and then one fine old Southern gentleman turns round to his own side of the assemblage, and pitches into Orrs R. Singleton, of Mississippi, Martin J. Crawford, of Georgia, and all the secession juveniles who had been ventilating their crude treason during the past ten days. "It is my religion," he said "to be a lover of the Union! My State is conservative both from conviction and interest; and through me it repudiates all the theories of Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina." Having only awakened this morning to the existence of John Brown, Mr. Davidson went back to where the world was when he fell asleep, and attacked the British Government with all the freshness and activity of revolutionary spirit.—It being clear that he still thinks it takes six weeks to travel the road between Georgia and the City of Brotherly Love.

On Mr. Davidson's resuming his seat, Williamson R. W. Cobb of Alabama seized the floor, and delivered an extraordinary hard-shell Baptist sermon, of that original and amusing kind for which he long ago obtained a patent. The Rev. Mr. Cobb has been for thirteen years a member of the house, and a pillar of the crustacious Baptist faith. He is a model man of the type half horse half alligator, standing six feet four inches in his broad-toed boots, and so thin as to recall the story of that Western debtor who, when pursued by the sheriff, crept into his rifle and looked out at his pursuers through the touchhole. In dress he is all over the Baptist parson—black dress coat, black satin waistcoat and heavy gold seal, a vard and a half of thin black trousers, and a stiff black satin cravat, surmounted by sharp-pointed white shirt-collars. His face resembles that of a death's-head moth—its forehead narrow and prominent, the dark eyes sunk away out of sight, the cheek-bones hardly covered by the tight-drawn and sallow skin, the cheeks hollow, the nose short, and the head thickly thatched with a shortish but strong growth of iron-gray hair, divided in the middle of the forehead. Swaying backward and forward on his legs, like the long pendulum in the tower of Notre Dame, suspended there to prove the rotation of the earth,—this gaunt and grisly orator swings his arms through the air with a sweep as wide and foudroiating in gesture as it wielding the cevolas of time. His voice has the wild sinking and falling, howling and whispering, shrieking and muttering of the western Baptist pulpit. His grammar is a little more smooth than his appearance, and his pronunciation keeps unless with all the fantastic perversities of his nature. Now and then he darts forward, thrusting out a long skinny arm and extended forefinger at the Republicans, while he asks a question, then crouching back on his haunches, while he feigns to be shocked with the answer which he has got into their mouths: "Have you no other man," he screams to the Republicans—"Have you no other man but Sherman to fix in that chair?" If you are, and don't go to do it, then you're the meanest kind of white men that crawls this airth; for of you do put him thair, in that cheer, our people'll lick us out of our boots when they get us home!" As another means for organizing, he very frankly confessed that he "wanted a little money himself, and thair was no right for wagerin' it until the chose was filled." Never did a provincial tragedian, obtaining his first chance for fame in a Metropolitan theatre, so tear a passion to rags and out-Herod Herod in the way of stormy gesticulation and wild attitudes as did this orator of the day. His legs were bewildering as a length of hose-pipe; his arms extensive and prehensile as if a couple of rattle-snakes had been jointed on at his shoulders; and the hard bones of his fingers rattled together as he snapped them in the faces of the Republicans—carrying out the idea which the curving and writhing of his talon-ended arms suggested.

He was interrupted by Emerson Etheridge, of Tennessee, who rose on behalf of the South Americans to protest that they could never affiliate with the Democrats, who had produced and squared them since the House had commenced balloting for Speaker. Mr. Etheridge is a man of about 36 years of age, with a singularly fine and well developed, broad forehead; straight, brown hair; brown whiskers and chin-beard; large head, [illegible] at an honest distance from each other, and a prominent, straight nose of not any decided type. He has a fine, mellow voice, talks fluently, and his words appear to carry weight both with his own man and the Republicans. He speaks like a lawyer, with a good deal of emphasis, and his general appearance is very prepossessing. The point of discussion between this gentleman and Cox was whether, as a matter of propriety, the South Americans should go over to the Democrats, or the Democrats to the South Americans. Etheridge wound up by declaring that "it would be the last resort with him—the cup of bitterness filled to overflowing—before he would ever cast his vote for any man who had voted for that Lecompton iniquity, which a majority of ten thousand in Kansas had since shown to be the worst act of despotism ever attempted to be perpetrated against a free people." This brought down the House, previously convulsed with laughter at Cox, into a long storm of applause, which very decidedly showed the feeling to be in the speaker's favor.

Mr. Bocock then rose and nominated Gen. John B. Millson, of Virginia,—a nomination which was received with loud applause. Mr. Bocock is a singularly fine-looking man, slightly bald in the forehead, with full, dark beard, unconscious of a razor, eyes of the average size, well set under clearly-marked brows, a florid complexion and Grecian features. He is extremely English in his style of speaking—his voice richly toned and calm, and his whole manner of a conciliatory turn. Had the vote been taken when he sat down, the chances are that Millson would have been elected by a combination of all the Anti-Republican elements. But at this juncture Mr. Horace F. Clark sprang to his feet and obtained the floor. He is now speaking, and his remarks will largely diminish the chances of anything which can be construed into an Administration victory. It is ten minutes to 3 P. M., and the mail closes at the hour. He is listened to with deep attention—the Democratic benches showing that his speech is read to an enlightened people for their hopes of succeeding on Buchler's nomination of Millson. Clark has now been speaking eight minutes, but his drift is not fully revealed.

NOBODY.

CLIQUEISM IN THE SENATE—THE COMMITTEES—THE CONTROLLING INFLUENCE OF THE CHAMBER.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1859.

Much dissatisfaction exists, and is freely expressed here, as to the manner in which the Senate is managed by a few of its members, forming an inside organization within the Democratic Caucus. This little clique, controlled by Senator Slidell, representing the Secession element, is maintained in its ascendancy on the basis of hostility to Judge Douglas. Full one-half of the Senators have hopes, more or less active, of the Charleston nomination; and it is by artfully playing on these hopes, and stimulating the jealousies against Douglas, that Messrs. Slidell, Benjamin, Toucey and company have been enabled to seize complete possession of all the executive branch as connected with the Senate.

By one means and another, but always through the agency of an inside secret organization in the Democratic caucus, these Senatorial junteries have controlled and coerced every presiding officer of the Senate for many years, with the exception of Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, whose election the other day must be a sore blow to their schemes. Whenever a Democratic caucus is convened to select Standing Committees, or for any other important purpose, Mutual Admirationist Number One moves that his friend Mutual Admirationist Number Two be appointed Chairman. It would seem discourteous to contest this; and then Admirationist Number Two appoints a sub-Committee of his fellows: numbers One, Three, Four, Five and Six to report a "programme of Committees" for the action of the Caucus. This report, whenever possibly practicable, places a man in the interest of the clique at the head of each important Committee, and then the whole programme is partly ballied through and partly cajoled upon the Caucus. Such of the Senators as are candidates for the Presidency are informed that the programme will surely "kill off Douglas," and be "all in their own interest." Others are given places at the head of various Private Bill Committees, where the patronage exceeds the power; and, in one way or another, the six mutual Admirationists manage to keep everything in the family circle.

It is thus that in the Standing Committees just appointed we see not the Democratic Party, dominant in the Senate, represented, but the schemes and the intrigues, the jealousies and interests of this secret cabal. Hunter, of Virginia, has been appointed by them Chairman of Finance; Mason, of the same State, controls Foreign Relations; Mallory, another Southern man, has Naval Affairs; our military destinies are confided to Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi; Hunter Johnson, of Arkansas, has Indian Affairs; Green, of Missouri, displaces Douglas in the supervision of Territories; Bayard, of Delaware, is entrusted with the Judiciary; C. C. Clay, Jr., of Alabama, has to look after Commerce; while Johnson, of Tennessee, is given the distribution and control of Public Lands. Thus the Chairman of every important Committee has, at his deal, been taken from the South—not one of the ten Democratic Senators from the Free States being thought worthy to be trusted with any active or commanding part in the Senatorial business or patronage!

To be sure, Pugh, of Ohio, was tempted with the Chairmanship of the Committee on Patents—all private bills—which he contemptuously spurned. Douglas, the last Free-State Senatorial Chairman, has been removed from the Committee on Territories; and now all the practical public business of the nation is in the hands of a half-dozen men, who ostensibly parade themselves as "friends of the Administration"—though most of them have proved unable to control the Charleston Delegations from their own counties, much less States, against the overwhelming popular sentiment in favor of the "Little Giant," who—while he was sick—they seemed to think might be persecuted with safety. Douglas, however, will be back in his seat by the first session of January; and then there will be war to the knife and the knife to the hilt against this cabal-domination. How can Messrs. Bigler and Pugh, of Indiana, for instance, explain the fact that in their own districts, all the National Delegates are of the Douglas stripe, as are also a decisive majority of the whole Indiana delegation? Let these men look out in time, or the day of retribution will be upon them before they know it. As between Green, the present Chairman of the Territorial Committee, and Judge Douglas, who has been struck down from that post, the country will have no difficulty in deciding. To the credit of Senator Hunter, of Virginia, be it said, that he has never taken any unfair part against his great rival; and that fact may yet prove to him the proudest and most useful record of his life. Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, is also a fair and just minded gentleman; and his election as President *pro tem.* of the Senate seems to argue an improvement in the tone of that body—certain to come at any rate, whenever the secret machinery, partly exposed in this letter, is seen through and understood.

It is a significant fact, and one which must have its just influence on the country, that the men here who are bitterest, and prepared to take the most desperate chances against Judge Douglas, are all the adherents of the secession and disunion school. Benjamin himself, for instance can have no hope of the Presidency except in an exclusively Southern combination. Bitterly opposed to Thomas Jefferson as he was in 1812, when he gave his famous Anti-Jefferson toast at the banquet to the "Naval Heroes of our Country," held in New-York, Mr. Slidell has never honestly been a Democrat in his life, the taint and odor of his early Federal principles pervading all that he thinks, or says, or does.

M. E.

FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.

Important from China—The Russians to be Driven from the Amoor.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Royal Mail steamship *Asia*, Capt. Lott, which sailed from Liverpool at 4 P.M. on the morning of the 10th inst., arrived here at 8 o'clock yesterday morning.

The steamer New-York arrived at Southampton on the 8th inst.

In future the North German Lloyd's steamers are to sail from Southampton for New-York on Wednesdays, instead of Tuesdays, as hitherto.

The *Prince Albert*, from Galway for St. Johns, was appointed to sail the same day as the *Asia*.

The news by the *Asia* is but quite two days later as the *North American* and *City of Washington* brought out telegraphic advices, *via* Queenstown, in the afternoon of the 9th inst.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.

Additional adhesions to the Congress had been received at Paris.

Advices from Rome say that the official invitations to the Papal Government were presented simultaneously by the French and Austrian Ambassadors. The Vienna invitation was not expected to reach Rome before the 16th inst.

M. Mezt will be the second Plenipotentiary of Spain.

Notwithstanding the objection urged against Count Cavour as the representative of Sardinia at the Congress, the report was persisted in at Paris that Cavour would be the Plenipotentiary for the King of Sardinia.

We are furnished by the *Constitutionnel* with the following authoritative statement in reference to the Congress:

"England, Austria, Prussia, and Sardinia, have officially notified their adhesion to the Congress. Up to the present time Lord Cowley appears destined to represent his country in the quality of First Plenipotentiary. M. de Schleinitz, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is still looked for as the First Plenipotentiary for Prussia. The Count de Rechberg, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Prince Ernest Metternich, will represent Austria—or, at least, as there is reason to believe. The Plenipotentiaries of the other Powers are not yet sufficiently indicated for us even to hazard conjectures who they may be."

The Brussels *Nord* states: "Lord Wodehouse, the present Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in England has, it is stated, been appointed Second Plenipotentiary. Nothing tends to contradict the first accounts given, that M. de Schleinitz and Count Rechberg had been fixed on as first and second Plenipotentiaries for the Government of Berlin. There is no truth in the statement that the letter for the King of Naples and the Pope had not been sent off. The so-called sovereigns and the present chiefs of the Governments of Central Italy will plead their cause before the Great European Council by means of notes and memorials. The publication of a new compromise by the Duchess of Parma is already sp

The Sun-Dove Times.

SUNDAY MORNING, DEC. 25, 1898.

NEWS OF THIS DAY.

The Grand assembly also, from Liverpool on the 10th inst., arrived here yesterday. The ship is now discharging her cargo at Pier 9, East River.

Among the passengers by the Grand Assembly were the Rev. Dr. Bourne, who has been stationed for the last two years at the Wesleyan Mission House in the City of Washington. The most interesting intelligence we received from Dr. Bourne was that the Rev. Mr. Brayman, who was stationed at Baltimore, and who was reported to be dead, is still alive and well and hearty.

The Rev. Dr. Bourne, who is a native of Yorkshire, England, has been married to a sister of the late Rev. Dr. Bourne, who was for many years stationed in this city. He is also related to the late Rev. Dr. Bourne, who was for many years Superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions in Canada. He is a son-in-law of Mr. Thomas Bowman, of Leeds, who is a member of the Wesleyan Conference, and who has been for many years a Justice of the Peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire. Mr. Bourne is a grandson of the late Rev. Joseph Entwisle, who was stationed in this city in the year 1816, and who died in Manchester, England, in 1841, at the age of 70 years. He was a son of the late Rev. Joseph Bourne, who was also a Wesleyan minister, and who died in Manchester, England, in 1824, at the age of 72 years. Mr. Bourne is a great-

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The New-York Times Friday, December 23, 1859.

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